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- I am here today to testify in opposition to HB191.
- To give you a little background about myself, I work for a Montana nonprofit company as a media relations coordinator, worked for 12 years as a reporter at the IR, am the mother of two children, and I'm a pitbull owner.
- I adopted my American Staffordshire terrier, Jade, three years ago at the Lewis and Clark County Humane Society and have thoroughly enjoyed having her become part of our family.
- We take the necessary measures to train Jade properly and keep her safe at all times – just like our other dogs. (Leash, fence, obedience training, etc.)
- I am opposed to this bill because I don't think this type of legislative oversight should be directed at an entire breed of dog. (Dobermans, Mastiffs, German Shepards?)
- Personally, I think it comes down to irresponsible dog owners failing to take the necessary precautions to keep their pets out of harm's way, or in the extreme case, training their pets to be aggressive.
- I would urge you to amend your legislation to address those owners who have demonstrated that they cannot be responsible for keeping control of their animals, and to individual animals who have demonstrated that they are aggressive.
- I am available if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.